1	2	3	4
	Disability Cases:		
(a)	Ex-Gratia from National Defence Fund	3.00-6.00	Nil
(b)	Dwelling Unit	2.00	Nil
(c)	Children's Education	2.00	Nil
	TOTAL	Rs. 10 to 13 Lacs	

The compensation package for the martyrs and wounded after the Kargil (Operation Vijay) operations were evolved shortly after the event and specifically for the particular operation as it was one major war like event. The existing package at that time being without covering other aspects listed above, required the enhancement.

Opening of Siachen to tourists

496. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plans for opening of 'Siachen' to tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the influx of tourists to 'Siachen' will adversely affect the ongoing peace talks with the neighbouring countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by when Government proposes to open the area for tourists?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) The area mentioned in the question falls within the State of Jammu and Kashmir which is an integral part of India. Trekking expedition have been taking place in the area subject to appropriate clearance.

In September 2007, the Government of Pakistan protested against the trekking expeditions in the Siachen area expressing their deep concern over the media report in this regard and stating that Siachen issue is being discussed within the framework of the Composite Dialogue.

Suitable reply was given to Government of Pakistan clarifying that trekking expeditions have been taking place in the past and India does not see how these will have an adverse impact on the dialogue process.

CAG's Report on procurement of bullet proof vehicles

497. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Comptroller and Auditor General in its report (March, 2007) has pointed out that Ministry of Defence "procured 200 bullet proof vehicles, worth Rs. 31.64 crore in July, 2005 from a private firm which were reported defective by users";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether without compromising safety requirements, Director-General of Ordinance Services, purchased nine more bullet proof vehicles from same firm in February, 2007 at cost of Rs. 4.12 crore; and

(d) if so, the reasons for purchasing of defective vehicles mentioned above and what action taken against officers of DGOP involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) The Comptroller and Auditor General in Para 2.1 of their Report No. CA 4 of 2008 (Defence Services) have, *inter-alia,* noted that the vehicles procured in 2005 have the following problems:-

- Higher weight than what the engines were designed for, lowering the pulling power; affecting the ability to negotiate steep gradients prevalent in the terrain,
- Unsuitable for cross country movement due to low ground clearance,
- Problem in negotiating turns in mountainous terrain,
- Overheating of tyres, and
- Losing advantage of bullet proof glass since adjustment of rear view mirror can only be done by opening the doors.

(c) and (d) Based on reliable intelligence inputs received by Army, indicating high level of terrorist threat to senior Army Commanders, Bullet Proof Scorpio vehicles were identified by Army for use in such environment. Nine such vehicles were procured in February, 2007 from M/s Mahindra Defence System. These vehicles are different from those referred to in parts (a) and (b) above. A few minor defects reported earlier in these nine vehicles have been rectified by the Original Equipment Manufacturer and no further defects have been reported. The vehicles are being used extensively by senior Commanders.

AK-100 rifles

498. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Government have taken a final decision to manufacture AK-100 series rifles with the help of Russia;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that AK rifles are more than 50 years old so made by Russia;

(c) whether the terms and conditions in this regard are on the pattern of the supply of Naval ships and sub-marines by Russia; and

(d) the reasons for not producing such rifles on the full technology of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) There are no plans to manufacture AK-100 guns with the help of Russia.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.